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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,366	03/26/2004	Masahiro Ishii	119087	7625

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EXAMINER

VARGAS, DIXOMARA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2859

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,366

Applicant(s)

ISHII, MASAHIRO

Examiner

Dixomara Vargas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/26/04, 09/20/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 09/20/04 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "23" has been used to designate both lens and toner hopper (Page 8, paragraph 48). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.
4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagamine et al. (US 5,978,626 A).

With respect to claims 1, 26 and 31, Nagamine discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising (Figures 1 and 2): processing units for respective colors of developing agents each of which can be attached to and detached from an image forming apparatus body (#20Y, #20M, #20C and #20Bk), the processing units including: a developing agent storage chamber that stores developing agent therein (Figure 3, #53); a developing agent holding member that holds the developing agent (Figure 3, #50), and an image holding member that holds a developing agent image that is formed by development of an electrostatic latent image by the developing agent

held by the developing agent holding member (#22); exposing devices for the respective colors of the developing agents, each of which is fixed to the image forming apparatus body and scans a laser beam to the image holding member in order to form the electrostatic latent image onto the image holding member (#40), and a cover member that is provided on a side opposite to a transfer position where the developing agent image held by the image holding member is transferred and that opens and closes with respect to the image forming apparatus body, wherein the processing units and the exposing devices are alternately disposed, and the processing units are attached to and detached from the image forming apparatus body via an opening defined by the cover member that is opened with respect to the image forming apparatus body (#14).

7. With respect to claim 2, Nagamine discloses the developing agent holding member (#50) is provided above the image holding member (#22) and the developing agent storage chamber (#53) is provided above the developing agent holding member in a state where the processing unit (#20) is attached to the image forming apparatus body (U, as seen on Figures 1-3).

8. With respect to claim 3, Nagamine discloses a wall of the developing agent storage portion, extending in the processing unit attaching and detaching direction, extends substantially in a vertical direction or is inclined inwardly upward of the developing agent storage portion when the processing unit is attached to the image forming apparatus body (Figure 3).

9. With respect to claim 4, Nagamine discloses an agitator that agitates the developing agent is provided in the developing agent storage portion, at a position near the developing agent holding member (Columns 7-8, lines 48-67 and 1-15 respectively, Figure 3, #48).

10. With respect to claim 5, Nagamine discloses a developing portion that includes the developing agent storage chamber and the developing agent holding member; and an image

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holding portion that includes the image holding member, wherein the developing portion and the image holding portion can be attached to and detached from the image forming apparatus body in a state where the developing portion and the image holding portion are integrated with each other, and the developing portion can be attached to and detached from the image holding portion (Figure 2).

11. With respect to claim 6, Nagamine discloses the developing portion can be attached to and detached from the image holding portion in a state where the image holding portion is fixed to the image forming apparatus body (Figure 2).

12. With respect to claim 7, Nagamine discloses an engagement portion and the developing portion includes an engaging portion engageable with the engagement portion (Figure 1, #14F).

13. With respect to claim 8, Nagamine discloses an operating portion in order to release the engaging portion from the engagement portion (Figures 1 and 26, #94).

14. With respect to claim 9, Nagamine discloses a first guiding portion that guides the developing portion so that the developing agent holding member faces the image holding member, and the developing portion includes a first guided portion that is guided by the first guiding portion (Figure 3, wall #53).

15. With respect to claim 10, Nagamine discloses a second guiding portion that guides the attachment and detachment of the developing portion with respect to the image forming apparatus body (Figure 3, opposite wall from wall #53).

16. With respect to claim 11, Nagamine discloses a second guided portion, and the second guiding portion guides the second guided portion of the developing portion so that the first

guided portion of the developing portion is guided to a guide start position of the image holding portion attached to the image forming apparatus body (Figure 3).

17. With respect to claim 12, Nagamine discloses a third guiding portion that guides the attachment and detachment of the image holding portion with respect to the image forming apparatus body (Figure 3, top of wall #53).

18. With respect to claim 13, Nagamine discloses the second guiding portion and the third guiding portion are provided so as to be opposite to a surface of a casing of the exposing device, and are substantially in parallel with each other (Figures 1 and 2).

19. With respect to claim 14, Nagamine discloses a surface of a casing of the exposing device serves as a guide member of the image holding portion (#40 and #84).

20. With respect to claim 15, Nagamine discloses the second guiding portion and the third guiding portion are provided in sides of the image forming apparatus body, in axial directions of the developing portion and the developing agent holding member, so as to be opposite to the respective second guiding portion and the third guiding portion (Figures 1-3).

21. With respect to claim 16, Nagamine discloses a cushioning member (Figure 27, #110) that receives a received portion of the second guided portion of the developing portion or a received portion of the image holding portion (#96) is provided in at least one of a deepest recess of the second guiding portion and a deepest recess of the third guiding portion (Figure 27).

22. With respect to claim 17, Nagamine discloses a grip to be held by a user (Figure 1, #60).

23. With respect to claim 18, Nagamine discloses operating panel to be operated by the user (Figure 4, P), wherein the grip includes a hook extending toward a side opposite to a side where the operating panel is provided (Figure 1, #60).

24. With respect to claim 19, Nagamine discloses the processing unit can be placed in both a vertical position in which the image forming member and the developing agent holding member are aligned in a vertical direction, and in a horizontal position in which the image forming member and the developing agent holding member are aligned in a horizontal direction, and the processing unit includes a first contacting portion, which contacts an installation plane when the processing unit is placed in the vertical position, and a second contacting portion, which contacts the installation plane when the processing unit is placed in the horizontal position (Figures 1-2)

25. With respect to claim 20, Nagamine discloses a charging device that is disposed opposite to the image holding member and electrically charges the image holding member, and wherein the charging device is movable between a first position where the image holding member and the charging device are aligned in a processing unit attaching and detaching direction and a second position where the image holding member and the charging device are aligned in a direction orthogonal to the processing unit attaching and detaching direction (Figures 2-3, #24a-#24d, #36, #38 and #44).

26. With respect to claim 21, Nagamine discloses the charging device is a first contacting portion when the charging device is located at the first position (Figures 1-3).

27. With respect to claim 22, Nagamine discloses a charging wire and a cover covering the charging wire, and wherein the cover is the first contacting portion (Figures 1-3).

28. With respect to claim 23, Nagamine discloses a filling aperture is provided to one wall, in a longitudinal direction of the developing agent holding member, of the developing agent storage portion at a position far from the developing agent holding member in order to pour the developing agent into the developing agent storage portion (Figure 3).

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29. With respect to claim 24, Nagamine discloses the developing agent remaining on the image holding member after the developing agent image held by the image holding member is transferred onto a recording medium, is collected by the developing agent holding member (Column 7, lines 37-48, Figure 3, #46 and #48).

30. With respect to claim 25, Nagamine discloses the developing agent is toner having substantially a spherical shape (Figures 1-3).

31. With respect to claims 27-30, see rejection of claims 2 and 5 above.

Conclusion

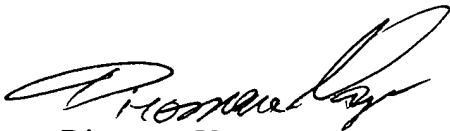
32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional prior art cited in the PTO 892 discloses laser printers including a scanning device supported by a developing system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm..

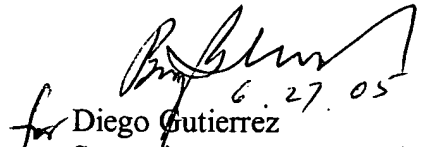
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dixomara Vargas
Art Unit 2859
June 24, 2005



for Diego Gutierrez
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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